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color sketch of a rose blooming or drooping on its stem and a motto in praise of roses. Such as

"A wreath of dewy roses fresh and sweet,
Just brought from out the garden's cool
retreat."

"Rose! thou art the sweetest flower
That ever drank the summer shower."

"Loveliest of lovely things are they,
Roses that soonest pass away."

"White, with the whiteness of the snow,
Pink with the deepest roseate glow,
The rose blooms on its spray."

"What secret is hid at the heart of the rose
No man knows."

"Rose, thou art the fondest child
Of dimpled spring, the wood nymph wild."

"Of flowers, if only one could bloom for me,
I know right well the rose that one would be."

"Sweetest of blossoms! to mine eye
Thou bringest the summer's ecstasy."

"There's naught in nature bright or gay
Where roses do not shed their ray."

"Does Nature her secrets disclose?
Nay, never! They're under the rose."

"Up from the gardens floateth the perfume
Of blushing roses in their perfect bloom."

"The rose leaves herself upon the brier
For winds to kiss and grateful bees to feed."

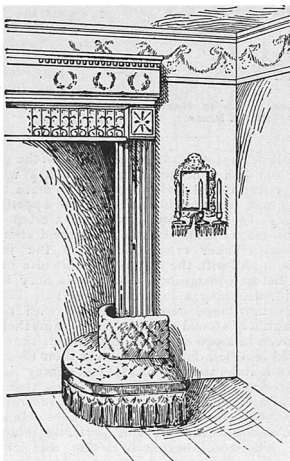
"Pure and perfect twine your rose wreaths."

"Often I linger where the roses pour
Exquisite odors from each glowing cup."

"Like the loved one, blushing, swooning,
With the rapture of a kiss,
Rose, thy ruby petals blooming
Have the hush of love's own bliss."

A FOURTH OF JULY LUNCHEON.

A FOURTH OF JULY luncheon or dinner is easily arranged. The place of honor should be given to a good-sized American flag center-piece, made of flowers. A tin form, partly filled with wet river sand, is the base. The stripes are made of red, white and blue flowers with the stems inserted in the sand. Carnations, white and red, and the blue corn-flower, are easily obtained. The entire flag will have a richer air if outlined with green-



A Door Divan. By L. B. Brock.

ery, like a strip of moss, the tips of maiden hair ferns or smilax.

All the decorations should be flat, and should carry out the conception of the red, white and blue. A broad white satin ribbon from the flag to the four corners of the table, are there held in place by circular dishes also filled with the three

colors, the white separating the two, having the red carnations at the edge next the greenery. The flag standard, necessarily made short, should be white with very narrow outline of green. It should be placed with the pole toward the head of the table. The lamp shades or candles carry out the conception, three being grouped at each corner, close to the circular



A Book Plate by Anning Bell.

plates. At each place a shell, filled with sand in which are stuck white flowers, will serve to hold the standards of small silk flags. Larger flags, draped over the mantel and windows, will serve to enliven the scene. Another should cover the drawing-room piano, and small flags might hang beside the electrolights and gas-fixtures. They will be more decorative if the standards rise from a loose puffing of thin white silk. To complete the picture, boutonniere and corsage bouquets of the three colors, with long pins to attach them to bodice and coat, should lie beside each place. The hostess should be costumed either in white or blue, with garnitures of the two other colors. It would be a pretty feature to have two or three concealed musicians to play softly "The Star Spangled Banner" as the company proceed to the dining room, or as many vocalists singing the same.

A UNIQUE DOOR DIVAN.

ALTHOUGH it would seem that the ultimate thought in furniture had found its expression in form before this, yet we find progressive manufacturers still putting out brand new ideas.

Here is one of those things that are new and yet so simple that one's first thought is: "Sure enough—why did we never think of that?" Chairs and sofas we have without end in variety and beauty. Every alcove and nook in every possible sort of room has been thought of and provided for except the one place that exists in almost every house, and is the one place where people are always wanting to sit—that is the doorway itself. Folding doors between communicating rooms are seldom closed. An ordinary chair within a few feet of the space never looks well. It shows its back to one room or the other and is in the way. The settee illustrated here is an addition to any decorative arrangement of either room. It does not interfere with any graceful drapery that may be arranged at the door. It is decidedly useful, convenient, and gives a certain touch of the unusual and elegant to the room. Of course it is desired to close the sliding doors. Altogether it seems a decidedly happy thought, and likely to become as indispensable as the divan in a tasteful parlor.

USEFUL AND ATTRACTIVE NOVELTIES.

BY CARRIE MAY ASHTON.

A VERY unique medicine case recently seen in a Woman's Exchange was made of brown leather with a strap around it of the same like the old fashioned pocket-book. Opening it flat the following quotation in quaint letters meets your eye:

"For every ill under the sun
There is a remedy or there's none.
If there is one try and find it,
If there's none never mind it."

Below are six spaces or pockets for medicine bottles.

In size this case is 9 inches in length when closed.

Another case is shaped like an envelope, and the material used is chamois skin, and on the outside are the words:

MEDICINE CASE.

A handsome portfolio is of leather with pocket for postage stamps and stationery.

The following characteristic lines are found on the cover:

"Pen, paper and ink, and a postage stamp
A little green box by a tall street lamp,
A postman in his suit of gray
Will serve to brighten the gloomiest day."

A pretty little case is perpendicular, 8 inches in length and 3 in width. It is covered with fine white linen with a spray of yellow roses and their buds embroidered on it with Asiatic filo silk floss. The lining is of yellow silk. On the cover above the spray of roses appear the words:

"If glove or gown
you wish
This little case
will prove
a friend."

Inside this dainty case are leaves of finest white wool pinked around the edge, and quilted on them are needles of all sizes threaded with various colored silks.

A simple but handsome laundry bag, which is intended to hold baby's soiled gowns, is of fine white linen ornamented with a graceful spray of

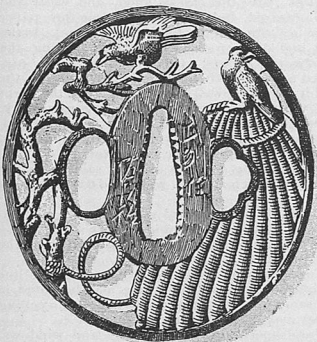


A Book Plate by Anning Bell.

forget-me-nots with a white bow knot done in Roman floss. This bag is drawn up by broad blue satin ribbon, which are tied in bows. Another similar one has golden buttercups in place of the forget-me-nots.

A most exquisite set for a dresser has a scarf of white bolting cloth over heliotrope silk finished at the ends with lovely creamy lace. Baby ribbons are drawn in across the sides and ends and tied in fluffy bows at each corner, making a handsome effect. Dotted here and there over the scarf are violets. A long, narrow cushion with narrow ribbons drawn in and finished around the edge with a full ruffle of deep lace over a ruffle of heliotrope silk accompanies the scarf. A pretty hand mirror, brush and comb of celluloid have the backs decorated with violets.

Many of the cushions this season are small and circular, with full ruffles of lace over silk.



Japanese Sword Guard. By Soukenaga.

Others are long and narrow like the one described in the set above.

Dimity bedspreads are very popular.

An exquisite bedroom set has hangings for the bed and dresser, window draperies, bedspread, dresser scarf, cushion, splasher, etc., of white dimity scattered over with pink rose buds.

Another set has yellow chrysanthemums instead of rose buds. With the former set yards and yards of pink ribbon of various widths were used, while yellow ribbon was used with the last named.

A most attractive set, which is to be painted and made by an artist, will be of white linen. The short sash curtains are to have a frieze of yellow buttercups. The ruffled bedspread, pillow shams, splasher, dresser and washstand, scarfs, cushions, draperies for the bed and dressing table are all to be decorated with the same blossoms. This set is to be painted with the wash dyes so it will launder well, and outlined with filo silk floss.

A new quality of denim is now much used for divan covers, large pillows and other fancy work. It is also liked for carpeting chambers and boudoirs. It is durable and effective and bids fair to be very popular for this purpose.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

BY HESTER M. POOLE.

CUT-GLASS requires special care, but even the best mistresses and butlers are frequently deficient in knowing how to preserve its brilliancy. It should be plunged into warm soapsuds and all the crevices thoroughly and repeatedly brushed out with a soft brush. Shower it with warm rinsing water and to restore its pristine luster, bury each article in sawdust, out of which, in a few hours, it can be resurrected as bright as when new. Should this process prove too troublesome, the next best way is to wipe the facets with tissue paper until the glass is dry.

IN a well-lighted dining room with a sunny exposure a dull sea-green is extremely satisfying and restful. It should be of that tint that harmonizes with gray, yellow and blue. That is, the walls, painted or hung with dull,

rather dark green paper, must have accessories that range in colors through the yellow and the blue greens.

A dining room lately fitted up on this scale is as novel as it is beautiful. The room is high, the walls solid. Wainscot, doors, window casings and mantel, all are alike. The hangings are of coarse, thick linen, with a frieze of bold embroidery, wrought with heavy silk in an irregular Persian pattern. In contrast with the green these colors took on a remarkable brilliancy and purity. They were so far removed from the level of the eye, and so broken into foldings, like the tints of a kaleidoscope, as to lose all the crudity that they might have shown in other environments. In fact, the universal green needed just those rich yellows, reds and blues to break up its monotony.

THE draperies themselves were a solid tint of green with a yellowish cast. To give the requisite blue tone, on the walls were hung fine specimens of the blue and white ware that are so decorative when used against a proper background.

But the high light and the beauty of the room came from the gilt frames of the family portraits upon the walls. These seemed set in a bower of greenery which accentuated not only the brilliant framings, but the pictures they inclosed. Taken altogether it was a bold but eminently successfully attempt to break away from the commonplace and achieve an artistic and restful result. On the dark-stained floor were a number of Oriental rugs, showing various shades of red and amber, and these, too, were a foil to the prevailing color. When the family gathered about the table it reminded one of an affresco repast, so well did the green simulate the cool depths of a forest glade. And yet there was enough bright color to relieve the coolness.



Important Notice. Our readers who are either building new houses, or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions on interior decoration.

As our space is necessarily limited, and our correspondence large, inquirers will please exercise patience should we not be able to publish replies in the first issue following receipt of letter.

In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase house furnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with each reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It will be easily understood how very embarrassing our position becomes when a correspondent rejects this or that carpet, or drapery material or wall paper, and seeks to have it exchanged for something else, after the material has been cut and shipped. It is impossible to exchange goods under these circumstances, and we hope in all cases, that when the goods have been cut and shipped exactly according to instructions, they will be accepted and paid for, whether our correspondents

have changed their minds on the subject or not. Such a request, it will be admitted, is reasonable and just.

Correspondents are earnestly requested to observe the following rules when writing to us:

1. Write only on one side of the paper.
2. Send, if possible, copies of the architect's plans of the various floors to be decorated. If it is not possible to do this, then send a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing the relation of the various apartments to each other, the position of the windows and doors, and mark outside the plan the north and south aspects of the house.
3. Always mention the kind of woodwork used in the finish of the various apartments. If the woodwork is stained or painted, mention the color of the stain or paint used thereon. Be particular to state whether the floors are of plain wood or laid in parquetry.
4. Advise in all cases if the apartment has a plaster or wood cornice between wall and ceiling.
5. State about how much money is to be expended in the decoration of each or all of the apartments, as a guide in deciding the particular treatment of same.
6. Inclose three two-cent stamps to pay postage on samples of draperies, wall papers, etc.

SOMETHING ABOUT BEDSTEADS AND DRAPERIES.

IN answer to a correspondent who asks what kind of cheap bedsteads are suitable for a country house, we reply that a good substitute for the brass bedstead now so generally in use, and which are more or less expensive, are those made of iron with a brass knob at each corner. Single ones of this kind, well made, cost \$5, and look well painted white or any delicate light color, leaving, of course, the polished brass ball at the corners as decoration.

Simple spreads to cover these beds may be made from the cheapest materials. A piece of transparent muslin lined with blue, pink, yellow or green cambric, with pillow shams to match is all that is required. In a young girl's room the iron bedstead is painted pale pink, a coat of varnish giving it an enameled look. A plain Swiss-muslin coverlid and pillow sham are edged with narrow lace and lined with pale pink cambric. The corners of the pillow sham



Japanese Sword Guard incrustated with Gold and Silver.

are finished with a flat bow of pink ribbon, and nothing daintier can be imagined.

A double iron bedstead decorated with brass balls is painted white with gold lines, and has a coverlid of white scrim (which costs about twelve cents a yard) lined with cambric of a delicate yellow shade. A narrow edging of ball fringe completes the spread, and the pillow shams are made to match. The spreads should be made large enough to reach nearly to the